

Message Text

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16

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 ARA-11 NASA-04 COME-00 EB-11

DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2807

UNCLAS TEHRAN 4385

PASS NASA AND COMMERCE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TSPA, ETEL

SUBJECT: GOI INTEREST IN TWO SPACE- RELATED PROJECTS

1. ERTS GROUND STATION: DR. EBTEHADJ, OF MINISTRY OF PLAN AND BUDGET, IRANIAN PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR FOR ERTS, HAS INFORMED US THAT GOI SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN INSTALLING GROUND STATION TO RECEIVE ERTSH MAGERY. PLAN AND BUDGET MINISTER ABDOL MAJIDI IS WRITING DR. FLETCHER TO REQUEST NASA ADVICE AND COOPERATION IN THIS PROJECT. EBTEHADJ IS AWARE OF NASA AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL ON GROUND STATION AND BELIEVES IRANIAN CONCEPT MORE ELABORATE.

2. EDUCATIONAL SATELLITE: EBTEHADJ HAS RECENTLY BEEN TASKED WITH DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL TV SATELLITE PROGRAM, CONCEPT WHICH HAS BEEN PUBLICLY ENDORSED BY SHAH. EBTEHADJ IS AWARE OF COMPLEXITIES OF SATELLITE BROADCASTING AND ASKED IF EMBASSY COULD ASK NASA TO PROVIDE SOME GUIDANCE THROUGH TANGLED WEB OF COMPETITIVE SYSTEMS. WE SUGGESTED THAT HE DRAFT ANOTHER MAJIDI- FLETCHER LETTER EXPLAINING WHAT IS WANTED, THAT IN MEANTIME WE WOULD ALERT NASA TO REQUEST AND WOULD ALSO ALERT AMERICAN FIRMS THAT GOI IS NOW PREPARED TO GIVE THEIR PROPOSALS ON SYSTEMS SERIOUS ATTENTION.

3. ACTION REQUESTED:

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A. NASA PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE IT CAN ON BOTH PROJECTS;

B. COMMERCE ALERT SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS FIRMS THAT GOI
INTEREST IN EDUCATIONAL SATELLITE SYSTEM HAS CHANGED FROM
PASSIVE TO ACTIVE. WE AWARE HUGHES HAS BEEN TRYING SELL IRAN
SYSTEM FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND OTHER LARGE FIRMS HAVE MADE PER-
IODIC APPROACHES. IN PAST WE BELIEVE THEIR APPROACHES HAVE BEEN
MAINLY AIMED AT PTT AND EDUCATION MINISTRIES. PLAN MINISTRY
SHOULD NOW BE ADDED TO LIST. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE ESPECIALLY
RECEPTIVE TO LOW- KEY EDUCATIONAL APPROACH THAT WILL PREPARE IT
TO EXPLAIN ALTERNATIVES TO CABINET AND SHAH.
HELMS

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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